Northampton **THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015** BRINGING YOU THE NEWS SINCE 1720

COBBLERS BOSS MAKES CHANGES WITH SQUAD



RAIL STATION PREPARES FOR FIRST PASSENGERS

AFTER WEEKS OF DELAYS, NEW BUILDING IS READY TO OPEN

The new £20 million railway station in Northampton will definitely open next Monday, London Midland has confirmed.

The train operator, which had previously said the new station would be open any time up to January 12, confirmed the building will open at 4am on Monday, ready for the first train service to depart Northampton at 04.15 for London Euston.

London Midland expects queuing times to get on and off the platforms to reduce, as there are now 10 ticket gates, compared to four in the current building.

In the coming weeks Starbucks, Coffee Republic, WH-Smith and Enterprise car rental will all open new outlets within the station building.

In the interim period a temporary coffee station will be installed so customers can purchase hot drinks.

London Midland has advised customers to allow more time when first using the station to familiarise themselves with the new layout and ticket gate operation.

Previously, customers showed their tickets and travel cards to revenue officers who manually operated the gate. With the new gates, customers feed their tickets and travel cards (only those with a magnetic strip on the reverse) into the machine and the gates open automatically.

The machine retains the ticket once the journey is complete, so customers who would normally keep their $ticket \, for \, the \, reimbursement$ of travel expenses will need to ensure they request a receipt at the point of purchase, either from the ticket vending machine or the ticket book-

Dawn Watkins, London Midland's station manager at Northampton said: "This type



of ticket barrier is in operation at most busy stations up and down the country, so it won't be anything new to many commuters, but we're keen to get the message out to everyone.

"The ticket gates will be staffed, so assistance can be provided if customers are unsure what to do. There are also two extra-wide gates for people travelling with wheelchairs, heavy luggage or pushchairs".

Northampton is London Midland's fifth-busiest station of the 148 it manages, with 2.8 million passengers travelling through the station each year.

The new station development was led by a partnership between Network Rail, Northamptonshire County Council and Northampton Borough Council, At 2,500 square metres, the new building is more than twice the size of the old station and is better equipped to meet the growing number of visitors and commuters travelling to and from the town.



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NORTHAMPTON MERCURY

Town centre cafes facing levy rise for outdoor furniture



Cafes in Abington Street have been told they must pay more to have outdoor seating areas after a revamp to the area

Owners of some Abington Street cafes who let their customers sit outside are to have their annual council levy more than tripled to £560 a year.

Northamptonshire County Council has issued a flat £170 charge to town centre cafes who have outdoor furniture.

But owners have been told that following the changes to Abington Street, which has been partly re-opened to traffic, any cafes with 16 or more outdoor seats will attract a charge of at least £560.

A spokesman for the coun- and chairs.

ty council said the increase would also apply across the county.

"Cabinet approved a report in July this year, reviewing charges for highways services in the county, as there had not been a change for a number of years. Part of the review looked at neighbouring authorities to make sure that charges were on a par with other counties.

"The charges' review included ones for 'objects on the highway', which would include pavement cafe tables and chairs. "The new proposal would be across the county and brings in a staged increase in charges depending on how many chairs are placed on the pavement.

"This is designed to be fairer to smaller businesses with a smaller footfall, while larger businesses, taking up more space on the highway, would pay more.

"Previously all businesses had paid the same, which was considered unfair.

Cafes placing up to four seats on the pavement would be charged £200 a year; between five and 10 seats would be £240;11 to 16 seats would be £350; and 16 to 24 seats would be £560 each year.

Cafes with 25 seats and above would be considered on an individual basis.

Councillor Brendan Glynane, leader of the opposition Liberal Democrat group, said the move detracted from any attempts to attract more customers to Northampton's main shopping street.

He said: "The whole reason for the £6m scheme was to enliven Abington Street, but this just deadens it."





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Positive responses to traffic from shoppers

• Although some businessmen may not agree, the opening of the top end of Abington Street to traffic was popular with many shoppers the Chron spoke to.

Barbara Nelson said: "I've just brought an elderly friend whose had a fall. She just wanted to go to the bank and a shop, so it's perfect." Ray Cotton, 53, from Duston, said: "It's a great idea, it allows people to spend their money here more easily." Dance Davighi said: "It's not worth £6m and I wouldn't take a risk coming this way on the off-chance of a space.

"But I can see the appeal of the

"But I can see the appeal of the convenience."



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Pub regulars rally homeless Andrew

A once homeless ex-serviceman was given a Christmas he will never forget after regulars at a Northamptonshire pub clubbed together to get him off the streets.

Big Issue seller Andrew Mc-Garry, 48, had been sleeping rough on the streets, in a tent and in temporary accommodation, for nearly seven months after his benefits payments were stopped at around May of last year.

But at Christmas he was safely housed in a new rented bedsit in Towcester's High Street, after regulars at a The Brave Old Oak, in Watling Street, launched a campaign to help him.

Not only did landlord David Cooper pay for Mr McGarry's £200 deposit on his new flat, but his customers then held a Facebook whip-round to donate items so the former soldier could furnish it.

Mr McGarry said he had been overwhelmed by the response from the public.

He said: "I felt like a big kid again. It's like I used to feel when I was a 12-year-old at Christmas. I can only say a massive thank you to the people of Towcester. I can't get my head round it."

Mr McGarry, originally from Kettering, moved to Great Yarmouth some years ago to find more work on building sites.

But with the faltering housing market, he the struggled for a job.

Seven months ago, while living in a bed and breakfast, his state benefits were cut, after what he described as a 'dispute' with a Job Centre Plus officer.

He had gone from wellpaid jobs to being penniless in a matter of months and soon moved to Northampton, where he began to sell The Big Issue magazine on the corner of Fish Street in the town cen-

On the recommendation of a friend, three months ago he went to Towcester for a

day and visited The Brave Old Oaka. Landlord David Cooper was so taken by Mr McGarry's plight, he offered him a room upstairs at a discounted price and offered to do his washing.

After paying the deposit for the homeless man's new flat, Mr Cooper and pub regular Martin Kirby launched an appeal to furnish the new bedsit on Facebook.

"People started coming in and donating sheets, curtains, a toaster, a cooker, we got him a little microwave, it was amazing," Mr McGarry said.

Mr McGarry, who served on tours in Northern Ireland in the 1980s with the Royal Fusiliers, said he would carry on selling The Big

"People who see me in the town are encouraged by buying a copy from me because they know I'm going to put the money to good use.

"I get all sorts of offers too; people ask me if I could do a bit of gardening," he added.



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Andrew McGarry (centre) with Martin Kirby and David Cooper at The Brave Old Oak in Towcester

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy 2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be beneve to help!



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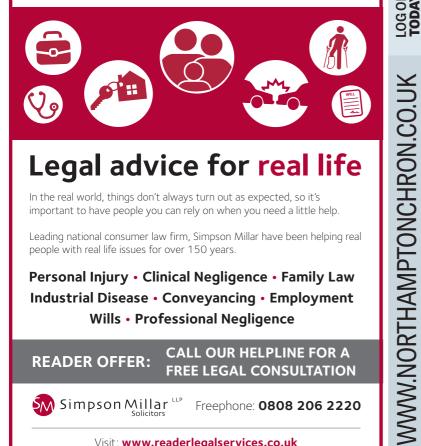


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Jobs will be lost in City Link collapse

Distraught City Link workers say its tightly-knit workforce in Northampton has been 'ripped apart' after learning the parcel delivery company had collapsed on Christmas Day.

Many of the 50 or so staff at the company's Riverside Business Park depot returned to work last Monday for the first time since it was announced on December 25 that the company would be making 'substantial redundancies'.

No buyer could be found to take over the Coventry-based firm and, as a result, administrators Ernst & Young were called in on Christmas Eve.

Across the country more than 2,700 jobs are at risk and 1,000 self-employed drivers and agency support staff could also be affected.

Paul MacDonald, an agency driver who was a full-time employee of City Link for 19 years, was one of many to attend the Northampton depot last Monday for a meeting



with the administrators. He described the gloomy mood among the returning workers, who learned of their fate through news reports rather

than from a company memo. "There are a lot of long servers here," he said. "It was like a family. "It has totally ripped that family apart. This company has always relied on its workers' good nature to get things done. You worked hard because you didn't want to let

To find out on Christmas Day is just appalling.

Mr MacDonaldleft the firm as a full-time employee four months ago, but he said few people were surprised to see the collapse of the firm, owned

by Better Capital.

He said: "Last year they held a football tournament between its UK depots and they had staff from all over the country transported to Coventry. Some even stayed in hotels. But then you are told the company is haemorrhaging money and all the while they are sending people to business conferences at Center Parcs.

City Link staff were given orders not to speak to the press on Monday, however one worker leaving the building confirmed he had been told he would be losing his job.

Another employee said he would also be made redundant, but was given assurances he would be paid until the end of December.

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Gary Lineker, founding patro

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The Refurbished Spencer Arms Has Reopened

The Spencer Arms in Chapel Brampton, Northampton has reopened after an extensive refurbishment. With more comfortable seating and a lighter and brighter feel, the upgraded pub restaurant is the perfect venue to while away a few hours with friends over great food and a drink or two.



The 100 year old listed pub is just down the road from Althorpe House, which was previously owned by the Spencer family, and was also the home of Princess Diana, before she married Charles, Prince of Wales. After admiring the local history, the pub makes an idyllic place to relax and unwind.

With the aim of keeping all the charms of an old English pub, the refurbishment has been sympathetic to the pub's original features while giving a much fresher feel with new flooring and furnishings.

Alex Fikry, General Manager at The Spencer Arms said: "We're delighted with the quality of our latest renovation, and can't wait to show off our new look. We're proud to play a pivotal role in our local community, and are pleased that the refurbishment allows us to continue a tradition of being a destination Northampton can be proud of."

"We're looking forward to sharing our fresh new look with returning and new guests alike over the coming weeks and providing them with a meal to remember in an enviable setting." The menu is full of pub favourites, with Yorkshire Sausage & Mash, sumptuous Slowcooked Lamb Shoulder and Steak & Ale Pieall popular this winter.

If visiting on a Sunday be sure not to miss the Roast Topside of Beef, Roast Turkey Breast or Roast British Pork Leg. If you are unable to choose between the dishes you could opt for the Trio of Roasts, a combination of the three aforementioned dishes, served with all the trimmings!

The Cask Marque approved pub also offers CAMRA discount on ales, as well as having a Cask Ale taster board on offer, consisting of three one-third pints for guests to sample a trio of beers and find their favourite.

The Spencer Arms is open Monday to Saturday 12noon - 11pm and Sunday 12noon - 10.30pm.



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No charges following dog attack on young girl

No-one has yet been charged in connection with a "disgraceful" attack on a disabled girl in Lings Wood, Northampton, almost three months after it happened.

The girl, who was in a wheelchair, was with her father on Friday, October 3 at about 4pm when two men and a dog passed them, at which point the girl became upset by them passing too close and she flailed her arms at them.

This prompted one of the men to give a command to the dog to 'get her'.

The dog then latched on to the young girl's arm and did not let go until the father took action to stop it, after which the dog and the two men ran

Fortunately the young

girl was wearing arm guards, which she needed due to her disability, and this prevented her from being seriously injured. Talking to the *Chronicle & Echo* after the incident, the girl's mother said the two men were laughing during the attack.

Police sector Inspector Kev Byrne, described it as an "absolutely disgraceful" incident. He said: "It is not a case of a dog being out of control, but being used as a weapon in an assault on a very vulnerable girl."

A police spokesman said a 21-year-old man had been arrested in connection with the incident and then released without charge. The spokesman said: "The investigation is continuing and we would still like to speak to anyone who may have any information regarding the incident."

Anyone with details can call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



TTACK A dog owner set his pet on a girl in a wheelchair in Lings Wood. A man was arrested but was released without charge

Motorsport firm handed new building

Manufacturing at Cosworth's new 38,000 sq ft building in Northampton will be starting

Northampton Borough Council built the Advanced Manufacturing Centre and handed it over to the motorsport firm last week.

The building will house a manufacturing system that will produce complex, machined components for high-performance, limitedproduction vehicles.

New machinery has been arriving and is being calibrated, then tools will be set and catalogued to ensure they provide the level of precision needed.

The council is now renting back the building to the iconic motorsport engine company, which said it would create 70 jobs directly, with more in the supply chain.

Cosworth chief executive,



The Advanced Manufacturing Centre in St James, Northampton

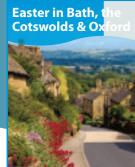
HalReisiger, said: "Cosworth's Advanced Manufacturing Centre will use state-of-theart technologies to streamline manufacturing.

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NHS in apology for medic redundancies

Podiatrists were made redundant by the NHS in Northamptonshire only to be replaced using new funding within weeks.

The two full-time Band Six podiatrists lost their jobs in April as part of a shake-up of the service by bosses at NHS Northamptonshire Healthcare (NHFT).

Unknown to the two staff members, NHS was bidding for funding to keep them in post.

And it has now emerged that weeks after they were given their notice, the funding was granted and their roles were re-advertised.

The news came as a Freedom of Information request showed that, in 2011/12, redundancy coststotalled £2.8m followed by £5.5 million the following year.

Andy Evans, a private podiatrist who was made redundant separately from those mentioned above, claimed the wasted payments showed the reorganisation process had been handled badly.



He said: "They were experienced podiatrists who wanted to stay and the NHS in Northamptonshire needed them.

^aThey shouldn't have been let go in the first place. But to shell out for redundancies only to take on two people in exactly the same roles shortly after is incredible."

A spokesman for NHFT said: "Regrettably in this instance, confirmation of the funding for the new band six posts was not available in time to prevent redundancies within the service taking place."

A letter by NHFT chief executive Angela Hillery to an MP, seen by the Chron, also admits the mistake and adds: "At the time there was insufcient foresight to manage the delay of CCG funding to avoid redundancies.

"This is regrettable and I am genuinely sorry on behalf of the organisation that this occurred.

"At any point there could have been around eight consultation processes at various stages... involving hundreds of staff."

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Ballet flies in from Moscow for shows



Moscow City Ballet will return to Northampton this month, heading to Royal & Derngate to perform classic ballets, Giselle and Swan

The company will visit the Royal & Derngate theatre from Monday, January 12, until Saturday, January 17. Giselle will be performed on Monday and Tuesday and Swan Lake will be performed from Wednesday until Saturday.

Accompanying them will be the Moscow City Ballet Orchestra, providing live music to complement the dancing.

World favourite Swan Lake, by Tchaikovsky, tells the story of how Odette and Prince Siegfried are tricked by the evil sorcerer and his daughter Odile.

The romantic tale Giselle is of a village girl who dies after her peasant lover, Albercht, is unmasked as a noble betrothed to another. Her everlasting love saves him from death after he finds the spirits of other maidens who died before their wedding day.

Founded in 1988 by Vic-

tor Smirnov-Golovanov, who sadly passed away after a long battle with cancer last year, Moscow City Ballet is now owned by his wife, Ludmila Neroubashchenko, who has kept faithful to her late husband's unique style of choreography and production.

Evening performances will take place at 7.30pm and matinees on Wednesday and Saturday will be at 2.30pm.

Tickets are priced £16.35 and can be booked by calling the Box Office on 01604 624811 or by visiting www.royalandderngate.co.uk

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ROAD TEST - JEEP CHEROKEEE 2.0 LIMITED 140 4X4

It's handsome and rugged

A Jeep Cherokee used to look as though it was built from plates of steel bent into a car shape like metallic origami.

But no more; for here is a midsize Jeep for the metropolitan buyer, where form fights function and wins. This is a car meant to look at least as fast as it is tough underneath. Faster, actually.

This latest Cherokee shares important underpinnings with Alfa Romeos and plucks

modified engines from current Fiats, thanks to Jeep's place in the worldwide Fiat Chrysler Automobiles stable.

You can even buy a version without the four-wheel drive function that's been so much a part of the Jeep go-anywhere heritage. That model will save you £2,000 in the showroom and a bit of diesel every time you fill up, but it won't really feel like a Jeep when the going gets tough.

For that you'll need some-

thing like the Limited model. It's actually in two-wheel drive mode most of the time, saving fuel when you don't need power to the rear wheels, but switching instantly and automatically when you do.

The result is a car that's undeniably handsome outside, with a boldly elegant take on the traditional Jeep radiator grille, and smart and modern inside to a degree that might startle the owner of one of the old slab-sided Cherokees



FACTFILE

PRICE: £33.195 DRIVETRAIN: 2.0 litre 138bhp diesel engine, 6-speed gearbox PERFORMANCE: Top speed 117mph 0-62mph 12.0 seconds ECONOMY: Euro average 50.4mpg CO2147g/kmroadtax SIZE: 4624mm by1859mm wide

INSURANCE: Group 27 WARRANTY: Three years or 60,000 miles









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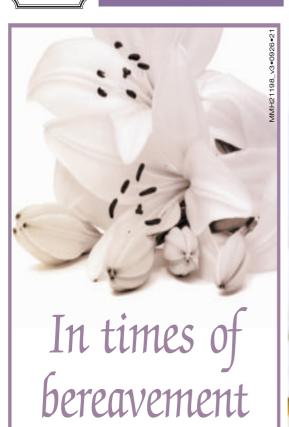
Passed over December 31st 2008. Memories each and everyday, They will never They will 'nev'er go away.

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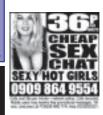
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number 153687 number 153687
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seeking women

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SPORT

Cobblers release Langmead

Former player of the year leaves Sixfields as contract is terminated

FOOTBALL

Former Cobblers captain and player of the year Kelvin Langmead has left Sixfields after his contract was terminated.

Manager Chris Wilder has continued his squad restructuring by releasing Langmead, who has been with the Cobblers since August 2011.

The former Shrewsbury and Peterborough United central defender leaves the club with immediate effect, with his contract, which was due to expire in the summer, being paid up.

Langmead had been the subject of a loan bid from a Conference club last week but rejected the move.

"The club moves on," said Wilder. "I have to take the emotion out of it and do what's right for the football club.

"People will have their opinions on players, of course, and I'm sure people have their opinions on the meat pies at the ground and all sorts of other things, formations and transfer targets, whatever.

"The beauty of the game is that everybody has their opinion.

"It's more noticeable these days because of social media

and the internet.

"I back my judgement and the judgement of my staff.

"I've got a very clear vision of where I want this football club to go, we want to go forward

"I always thank the players for their contribution, whether that's been under me or under a previous manager, but we have to focus on the players that are going to take us forward."

Langmead has made nine appearances for the first team this season after recovering from an Achilles problem.

He played just three times last season after suffering a knee injury towards the end the 2012/13 campaign, in which he was named player of the year at Sixfields and the team reached the league two play-off final.

Meanwhile, the Cobblers' head of sports science, Craig Smith, has also left the club with immediate effect.

Smith was brought to Sixfields by Aidy Boothroyd in April 2012 following a spell working with the development squad at West Ham United.

Prior to that, Smith was an analyst at Charlton Athletic but is now seeking pastures new.



Ravenhill also shown the door

RICKY Ravenhill became the second Cobblers player to have his contract at the clubterminated this week as manager Chris Wilder continues to remodel his squad.

The midfielder, who will turn 34 next week, has made 15 appearances for the first team this season with the most recent being in the 2-0 defeat at Southend on November 29.

Ravenhillwassignedfrom Bradford City after initially being brought to the club by Aidy Boothroyd on loan.

He went on the play a key part in the team's successful battle to avoid relegation from the Football League but found himself surplus to requirements in recent weeks.

Mallinder tells Saints to 'sharpen up'

JIM Mallinder has urged Saints to 'sharpen up' ahead of their tricky trip to Sale on Saturday.

Mallinder's men have won their past seven games, but the director of rugby has not been happy with his side's defending in the victories over Harlequins and Newcastle.

Saints have shipped seven tries in their past two matches, but seen their ruthless attacking game get them out of iail.

RUGBY

And Mallinder is eager to see defensive improvement from his team when they travel to the AJ Bell Stadium, where they were beaten in the Aviva Premiership last March.

"In attack there were moments of brilliance last week," he said. "We scored some good tries and, arguably, we could have got two or three more.

"There were some really good aspects to our attacking

play, but we're very disappointed in some of our defence.

"We've conceded more tries in the past couple of weeks than we've done all season and it's something we need to sharpen up a little bit.

"A lot of it is mental and we need to make sure we don't concede from first phase and we certainly need to defend mauls better than what we did last Friday."

Meanwhile, Mallinder expects England star Courtney

Lawes to return from injury in Saints' game at Sale.

Lawes has missed the past two matches with an ankle problem, with No.8 Sam Dickinson taking his place in the second row.

But Saints will be keen to get their lofty lock back in action, with his regular second row partner, Christian Day, having been forced off in the win against Newcastle last Friday.

Mallinder is hopeful Day's injury is not too serious, and is

even more confident about the fitness of key man Lawes and Tom Wood, who took a knock in the Falcons success.

"Christian hadjust got a bit of a bad back," said the Saints boss. "He mentioned it at half-time and he got a knock to it in the scrum. Hopefully he'll be fine.

"Tom got a bang to his ankle. He'll be fine, and hopefully Courtney will be 100 per cent fit for next week as well."

Kahn Fotuali'i was absent

for Friday night's 39-31 win at Franklin's Gardens and will be missing again when Saints travel to Salford this weekend.

The Samoan sustained a shoulder injury in the victory over Harlequins at Twickenham and Mallinder is not putting an exact date on his

"He's getting better,"
Mallinder said. "It probably
won't be next week and it
might still be a few weeks out,
but we'll see."